**CROWN LANDS ACT AMENDMENT BILL 1973**

**House of Assembly, 15 August 1973, page357**

Second reading

 **The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN (Minister of Works)** obtained leave and introduced a Bill for an Act to amend the Crown Lands Act, 1929-1972. Read a first time.

The Hon. J. D. CORCORAN: I move:

*That this Bill be now read a second time.*

Honourable members will no doubt recall that towards the end of the last session of the last Parliament an amendment to the Crown Lands Act was made to provide certain funds for the Lyrup Village Association to improve irrigation works. At that time funds to the extent of $138,000 were proposed to be made available, of which not more than $55,000 was to be by way of grant, the remainder to be by way of loan repayable in 40 equal annual instalments. In the event, when tenders were sought by the association for this work it was found that due to rising costs the total cost of the works should be of the order of $200,000. Accordingly, this short Bill seeks to amend the Crown Lands Act to increase the total sum available to $205,000 and to increase to $95,000 that portion that will be available by way of grant. Since this Bill is a hybrid Bill it will, in the ordinary course of events, be referred to a Select Committee of this House on the conclusion of the second reading debate.

Mr. NANKIVELL (Mallee): I support the Bill. Unfortunately, when fixed sums of money are inserted in Bills this sort of situation can arise, as the Minister has said in his explanation. The situation I refer to is that escalating prices can exceed even what was considered to be the highest price, taking into account, I think, a 10 per cent escalation in costs at the time of the original submission. The Lyrup Village Association is appreciative of the Government’s action to enable it to get on with the job of completing its pipelaying works before the beginning of the new irrigation season, if possible. I support the second reading in the hope that the matter will be quickly dispatched in its remaining stages. Bill read a second time and referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Arnold, Corcoran, Crimes, Harrison, and Nankivell; the committee to have power to send for persons, papers and records, and to adjourn from place to place; the committee to report on August 28.